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**"Let us resolve in honor of all the victims in Tucson that every Representative and every citizen continue to meet on corners across America to work through our differences, to find common ground and to make progress by working together."**

(WASHINGTON, DC) - In a speech delivered today from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, Russ Carnahan (MO-3) called on the nation to commit itself to stand against "extreme and divisive rhetoric." Carnahan urged his colleagues in Congress - and citizens across the country - to honor Rep. Gabby Giffords and the other victims of Saturday's attack in Tucson, Arizona by resolving to work through differences and find common ground, and to continue the practice of face-to-face meetings that are critical to a strong, representative Democracy.

Carnahan's remarks follow:

*"Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to lift up in our prayers my friend and colleague from Arizona, Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, the dedicated public servants on her staff, and the citizens engaged in the most fundamental practice of our American democracy - meeting with their Representative at a Congress in your Corner public event.*

*In the aftermath of this horrific attack we have learned about the lives and actions of the victims and heroes of last Saturday, which reflect the very best of America.*

*Gabby not only spoke out regarding the importance of government by the people; she lived it every day. Last week, I sat here on the floor of the House in line with Gabby and our colleagues as we read the U.S. Constitution.*

*The section she read from this very podium was the First Amendment - that protects "the right of the people to peacefully assemble and petition the Government for redress of grievances."*

*I remember thinking to myself what an ideal section for Gabby to read, because of her great example as an engaged public servant who truly stays close to those she represents.*

*This resolution before us today is necessary and appropriate, but by itself it will not be long remembered.*

*What will be remembered is our resolve - our unified national resolve - to stand against extreme and divisive rhetoric, and against building barriers between citizens and representatives that would weaken our Democracy and diminish our way of life.*

*An attack on one citizen while engaging in our representative Democracy is an attack on all citizens and the very foundation of our Democracy.*

*Let us resolve in honor of all the victims in Tucson that every Representative and every citizen continue to meet on corners across America to work through our differences, to find common ground and to make progress by working together.*

*To Gabby and every person impacted by this tragedy we resolve today to always be in your corner."*

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